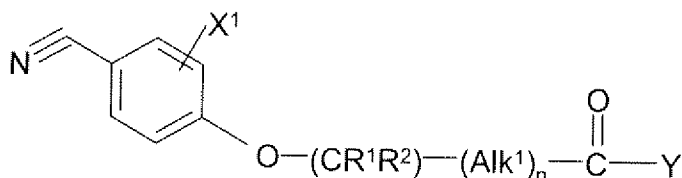


**In the Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A compound of the formula:



in which;

- a)  $\text{X}^1$  is represented by cyano, halogen or haloalkyl,
- b) one of  $\text{R}^1$  or  $\text{R}^2$  is represented by  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_6$  alkyl which may be optionally substituted, and the other of  $\text{R}^1$  or  $\text{R}^2$  is represented by hydrogen or  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_6$  alkyl which may be optionally substituted,
- c)  $\text{Alk}^1$  is represented by a  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_2$  linear alkylene group, in which up to two hydrogen atoms are optionally replaced by a substituent selected from the group consisting of  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_6$  alkyl optionally substituted, halogen, hydroxy, thiol, and cyano,
- d)  $n$  is represented by the integer 0 or 1,
- e)  $\text{Y}$  is represented by  $\text{NX}^2\text{X}^3$  or  $\text{O-X}^3$ ,
- f)  $\text{X}^2$  is represented by hydrogen or  $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$  alkyl optionally substituted, and,
- g)  $\text{X}^3$  is represented by
  - i. hydrogen,
  - ii.  $(\text{C}_4\text{-C}_{12})$  alkyl, optionally substituted,
  - iii.  $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{12})$  alkenyl, optionally substituted,
  - iv.  $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{12})$  alkynyl, optionally substituted,
  - v.  $(\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10})$  cycloalkyl, optionally substituted,
  - vi.  $(\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10})$  cycloalkyl  $(\text{C}_4\text{-C}_6)$  alkyl, in which the alkyl and cycloalkyl moieties may each be optionally substituted,
  - vii.  $(\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10})$  aryl, optionally substituted,

viii-ii.  $(C_6-C_{10})$ aryl $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, in which the alkyl and aryl moieties

may each be optionally substituted,

iii.  $-(CH_2)_q-(Alk^2)_q-C(O)R^3$ , in which  $Alk^2$  is represented by a  $(C_4-C_8)$

linear alkylene group, in which up to eight hydrogen atoms

may optionally be replaced by a substituent, selected from the

group consisting of  $(C_4-C_6)$ alkyl optionally substituted,  $(C_4-$

$C_6)$ alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, thiol, cyano, and  $NR^8R^9$  in which

$R^8$  and  $R^9$  are each independently represented by hydrogen or

$(C_4-C_6)$ alkyl,  $q$  is the integer 0 or 1,  $R^3$  is represented by

hydrogen,  $(C_4-C_{12})$ alkyl,  $(C_6-C_{10})$ aryl, or  $(C_6-C_{10})$ aryl $(C_4-$

$C_6)$ alkyl, in which the alkyl and aryl moieties may each be

optionally substituted,

iv.  $-(CH_2)_q-(Alk^2)_q-C(O)-O-R^4$ , in which  $Alk^2$  and  $q$  are as defined

above, and  $R^4$  is represented by hydrogen,  $(C_4-C_{12})$ alkyl,  $(C_6-$

$C_{10})$ aryl, or  $(C_6-C_{10})$ aryl $(C_4-C_6)$ alkyl, in which the alkyl and aryl

moieties may be optionally substituted,

v.  $-(CH_2)_q-(Alk^2)_q-C(O)-NR^5R^6$  in which  $Alk^2$  and  $q$  are as described

above, and  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are each independently represented by

hydrogen,  $(C_4-C_{12})$ alkyl,  $(C_6-C_{10})$ aryl, or  $(C_6-C_{10})$ aryl $(C_4-$

$C_6)$ alkyl, in which the alkyl and aryl moieties may be optionally

substituted,

vi.  $-(CH_2)_q-(Alk^2)_q-Y-R^7$ , in which  $Alk^2$  and  $q$  are as defined above,  $Y$

is O or S, and  $R^7$  is selected from the group consisting of

hydrogen,  $(C_4-C_{12})$ alkyl,  $(C_6-C_{10})$ aryl, or  $(C_6-C_{10})$ aryl $(C_4-$

$C_6)$ alkyl, in which the alkyl and aryl moieties may be optionally

substituted,

vii. heteroaryl, optionally substituted,

viii. heteroaryl $(C_4-C_6)$ alkyl, in which the heteroaryl and alkyl moieties

may each be optionally substituted,

~~xv.iii. heterocyclic, optionally substituted,  
x. heterocyclic(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, in which the alkyl  
and heterocyclic moieties may each be substituted, or;~~

~~h) for those compounds in which Y is N, X<sup>2</sup> and X<sup>3</sup>, along with the adjacent  
nitrogen atom, may form a heterocyclic ring, which may optionally be  
substituted, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or solvate, thereof.~~

Claim 2 (Original): A compound according to claim 1 in which one of R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen and the other of R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of isobutyl, propyl, n-butyl, isopropyl, and ethyl.

Claim 3 (Previously amended): A compound according to claim 2 in which n is 0.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 3 in which X<sup>1</sup> is trifluoromethyl and is located at the 3-position of the phenyl ring.

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 4 in which X<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen.

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A compound according to anyone of claim 18 in which X<sup>1</sup> is represented by halogen or haloalkyl.

Claim 10-12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Previously amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 in admixture with 1, or more, pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

Claim 14 (Previously amended): A topical pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to claim 1 in admixture with 1, or more, pharmaceutically acceptable excipients suitable for dermal application.

Claim 15 (Previously amended): A kit comprising a compound according to claim 1 packaged for retail distribution, which advises a consumer how to utilize the compound to alleviate a condition selected from the group consisting of acne, alopecia, and oily skin.

Claim 16. (New): A compound according to claim 1 in which  $X^1$  is represented by  $CF_3$  and is located at the 3-position of the phenyl ring,  $R^1$  is isobutyl or propyl,  $R^2$  is hydrogen, and  $n$  is 0.

Claim 17. (New): A compound according to claim 1 in which  $X^1$  is represented by  $CF_3$  and is located at the 3-position of the phenyl ring,  $R^1$  is isobutyl,  $R^2$  is hydrogen,  $n$  is 0, and  $X^2$  is represented by hydrogen.

Claim 18 (New): A compound according to claim 1 in which  $X^1$  is represented by  $CF_3$  and is located at the 3-position of the phenyl ring,  $R^1$  is isobutyl or propyl,  $R^2$  is hydrogen,  $n$  is 0,  $X^2$  is represented by hydrogen and  $X^3$  is benzyl or phenethyl in which the phenyl ring is optionally substituted with at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of methoxy, ethoxy, hydroxy, and methyl.

Claim 19 (New): A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

- a) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid benzylamide,
- b) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid benzylamide,

- c) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- d) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid (2-phenoxy-ethyl)-amide,
- e) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid -3-methoxy-benzylamide,
- f) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]amide,
- g) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-2-methoxy-benzylamide,
- h) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-2-ethoxy-benzylamide,
- i) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-3-methyl-benzylamide, and,
- j) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-2-methyl-benzylamide.

Claim 20 (New): A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

- a) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-4-methoxy-benzylamide,
- b) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-3-methoxy-benzylamide,
- c) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-2-methoxy-benzylamide,
- d) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-2-ethoxy-benzylamide,
- e) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-3-methyl-benzylamide,
- f) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-2-methyl-benzylamide,
- g) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-2,4-dimethyl-benzylamide,
- h) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-4-methoxy-benzylamide,
- i) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-(2-p-tolyl-ethyl)-amide, and,
- j) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-[2-(2-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide.

Claim 21 (New): A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

- a) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-(2-m-tolyl-ethyl)-amide,
- b) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-(2-p-tolyl-ethyl)-amide,
- c) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-[2-(2-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- d) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-(2-m-tolyl-ethyl)-amide,
- e) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-(2-phenoxy-propyl)-amide,
- f) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-(2-phenoxy-ethyl)-amide,
- g) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-[2-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- h) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-[2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- i) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid benzyl-isopropyl-amide,
- j) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-[2-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- k) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-[2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- l) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid benzyl-isopropyl-amide,
- m) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [1-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- n) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid 4-isopropyl-benzylamide,
- o) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-3-methoxy-benzylamide, and,
- p) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-4-methoxy-benzylamide.

Claim 22 (New): A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

- a) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-3,4-dihydroxy-benzylamide,
- b) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid (naphthalene-1-yl-methyl)-amide,
- c) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-hexanoic acid benzylamide,
- d) N-benzyl-2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-3-methyl-butylamide,
- e) (R)- 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid benzylamide,
- f) (R)-2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid benzylamide,
- g) (R)-2-(cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid 2-methyl-benzylamide,
- h) 2-(3-chloro-4-cyano-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid benzylamide, and,
- i) 2-(3-chloro-4-cyano-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid [2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide.

Claim 23 (New): A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

- a) (S)-2-(3-chloro-4-cyano-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid benzylamide,
- b) (S)-2-(3-chloro-4-cyano-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid [2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)ethyl]amide,
- c) (S)-2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-3-methyl-benzylamide,
- d) (S)-2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-[2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- e) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-[1-(methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- f) (R-) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [2-4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- g) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid (1-phenyl-ethyl)-amide,

- h) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid[1-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- i) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [1-(4-hydroxy phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- j) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid [1-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- k) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid [1-(4-hydroxy-[phenyl]-ethyl)-amide,
- l) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [1-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- m) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid (1-phenyl-ethyl)-amide, and,
- n) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid [1-(methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide.